

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PRS-01 L-03 H-03 EB-11 COME-00

TRSE-00 OMB-01 SCEM-02 CIEP-02 SCI-06 INT-08 SSO-00

NSCE-00 INRE-00 DRC-01 /114 W

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O R 190449Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1128

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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EO 11652 NA

TAGS ENRG, KS

SUBJECT PETROLEUM CUTBACKS

SUMMARY: KOREAN GOVERNMENT IS CONSIDERING MAKING PUBLIC STATEMENT SOON WHICH WILL FAVOR ARAB CAUSE. ROKG FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTRY HAS ASKED EMBASSY TO OBTAIN USG VIEWS BY NOVEMBER 20. REQUEST GUIDANCE. END SUMMARY.

1. MOFA INTERNATIONAL COMMERCE BUREAU DIRECTOR CHOE, HO CHUNG CALLED EMBOFF NOVEMBER 17 AFTERNOON TO DISCUSS OIL CRISIS. CHOE SAID THAT KUWAIT HAS INFORMED ROKG THAT CRUDE OIL SHIPMENTS TO KOREA WILL BE CUT 25 PERCENT. SAUDI ARABIA HAS ADVISED ROK EMBASSY JIDDA THAT SAUDIS HAD REGARDED KOREA AS FRIENDLY COUNTRY, AND WERE SURPRISED THAT KOREA HAS NOT YET ISSUED PRO-ARAB STATEMENT. KOREAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS IN MID EAST REPORT THAT NORTH KOREA PROPAGANDA THERE CONTRASTS NORTH KOREAN MILITARY SUPPORT TO EGYPTIAN AIRFORCE WITH SOUTH KOREAN FAILURE EVEN TO SPEAK OUT ON ARAB BEHALF WHILE MAINTAINING RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL. MID EAST POSTS RECOMMEND ROKG ISSUE FULL, POSITIVE STATEMENT SOON. ROK EMBASSY TOKYO

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HAS REPORTED THAT JAPANESE GOVERNMENT ISSUED WISHY-WASHY

STATEMENT AND WAS DISSUADED FROM PROCEEDING TO STRONGER ONE BY SECRETARY KISSINGER ON GROUNDS OVERALL SITUATION WOULD EASE SOON. ROKG IS NOW THINKING OF SENDING SPECIAL ENVOY TO SAUDI ARABIA NEXT WEEK. ENVOY, PRESUMABLY ASSISTANT COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER FOR RESOURCES, WOULD RELEASE ROKG STATEMENT THERE. CHOE WANTS STATEMENT TO BE NO STRONGER THAN NECESSARY TO OBTAIN DESIRED CRUDE OIL SUPPLY, BUT IS NOT SURE HOW TO ACHIEVE THIS. AT ANY RATE ROKG WISHES TO KNOW WHAT USG, U.S. OIL INDUSTRY, AND OTHERS CONCERNED WITH KOREA (I.E. CONGRESSMEN, JOURNALISTS, ETC.) WOULD THINK IF ROKG WERE TO MAKE A STATEMENT FAVORABLE TO ARAB POSITION? WOULD USG SHOW "SYMPATHETIC UNDERSTANDING" FOR SUCH A MOVE? CHOE HOPED REACTION WOULD BE FORTHCOMING BY NOVEMBER 20.

2. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING ANY GUIDANCE NOW AVAILABLE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
HABIB

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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30 JUN 2005

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